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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the newly redesigned two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Information resources	4
	A. Publication programme	4
	B. Website	6
	C. Exhibitions	7
III.	Information activities	7
	A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities	7
	B. Briefings	9
	C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament	9
IV.	Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations	10
V.	Activities of the Department of Public Information	10
	A. Public information campaigns	10
	B. Internet, press coverage, television and radio	12
	C. United Nations information centres, services and offices	13
	D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations	14
	E. Printed materials	15
	F. Exhibitions	16
	G. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace	16
	H. Public affairs	16
VI.	Conclusions	17
Annex		
	Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2009	18

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/81, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/643), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued his advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society. The High Representative has thus continued to increase his interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, high priority was accorded to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 4-15 May 2009) as well as to the Review Conference itself (New York, 3-28 May 2010), entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.

5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 14-18 June 2010). Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by the substantial amount of time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Review Conference itself and the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, as well as for specific topics such as efforts to achieve an arms trade treaty.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 63/70, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the

Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (A/65/160). These two reports should be read in conjunction.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres provide detailed information about their activities.[1]

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (A/65/151).

10. In accordance with the standing request of the General Assembly asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/64/261 and A/65/177).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2009 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of more than 4,000 copies and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depositary library system, United Nations information centres, all permanent missions in New York and Geneva (in multiple copies), the offices of the regional commissions and parliamentary libraries. It is sold in United Nations bookshops to subscribers and non-subscribers, with several hundred copies sold of each edition. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, the *Yearbook* is distributed to

[1] The reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/65/139) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/65/120) have been submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The report of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa will be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

approximately 1,300 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world.

13. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format which is easily accessible on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The *e-Yearbook* is produced in both HTML and PDF format and features full-text search, index search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

14. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The publication is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office's website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- *Occasional Paper* No. 14, February 2009, "Conflict of Interests: Children and Guns in Zones of Instability", based on a panel discussion of 15 July 2008 organized jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and the Government of Belgium.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 15, March 2009, "Developing a Biological Incident Database", based on a 23 October 2008 panel discussion organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 16, April 2009, "Assessing the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms", was, as an exception to the normal Office for Disarmament Affairs Occasional Papers series, a specific contribution prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs to the 2009 Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and was also intended to be of benefit to those concerned with these matters in Government, civil society and the academic community.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 17, October 2009, "Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons", was based on a joint project between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the European Union entailing holding six regional seminars during 2008. A total of 69 States, the majority of which were non-State parties to the Convention, and five regional organizations participated in the seminars.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 18, January 2010, "Ways to Strengthen the Field of Verification", based on presentations made to members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in February 2009 by James Acton, Associate in the Non-Proliferation Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Andreas Persbo, Acting Executive Director of the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 19, June 2010, "Cyber Warfare and Its Impact on International Security", based on a presentation made to members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in February 2009 by James Lewis of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

15. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued the production of its quarterly e-publication "Disarmament Update", which is aimed at

the interested members of the public and highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums, linking the reader to fuller material and documents already available on the website of the Office and other related websites.

16. In October 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "1540 Committee: Selected United Nations Documents" as a reference tool for participants in a series of ongoing regional workshops on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The booklet was also designed to provide diplomats and other Government officials, regional and subregional bodies, the United Nations system, specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes, educators and students and the general public with an easy-to-use compendium of key documents, including Security Council reports and resolutions relevant to the subject. An electronic version of the booklet is also available online.

17. In September 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "Disarmament — A Basic Guide" in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security pursuant to the purposes of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. The guide aims to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action, and support for it, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. While intended for the general reader, it is also useful for the disarmament educator or trainer. It is available in both English and Spanish and electronic versions are available online.

B. Website

18. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website.

19. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues, rather than based on the structure of the Office. The priorities of the Office determine its core content. Its front page provides the latest disarmament-related United Nations press releases, statements of the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament, relevant background documentation and links to significant United Nations partners. Its substantive pages give background information on the topic being explored and store a wealth of information on recent and past major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all official United Nations languages is posted on the website.

20. The Office continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of hits and visitors, peak hours and the days the website is accessed are kept monthly. Regular monitoring has improved the Office's understanding of the kind of information that is being sought and who is seeking it.

21. The number of visitors to the site has more than doubled since the previous report of July 2008 (A/63/162) with more than 54,900 unique visitors using the site every six months. The total number of sessions (i.e., the number of times individuals visit the site) has also increased by a factor of 80 per cent. The average time individual users spent on the website has shown a decrease of 6 per cent owing to the new and improved navigation following the redesign of the website in 2008,

which made the site more user-friendly. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries of foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The two most visited sections of the site are the database of General Assembly resolutions and decisions on disarmament and the database on the status and texts of disarmament-related treaties.

22. Expanding the multilingual version of the Office for Disarmament Affairs website continues to be a major challenge because of a lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all official United Nations languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily. A major objective of the Office for the website will be to have its home page content and all second-tier pages made available in all official United Nations languages.

C. Exhibitions

23. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. Such exhibitions have become an expected fixture of United Nations conferences (see para. 64 below in the Department of Public Information section of this report, which provides details of those for which the Office provided substantive support).

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

24. With support from the Government of Japan, the twentieth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues took place in Saitama City, Japan, from 27 to 29 August 2008. The Conference, with the overall theme of "Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy: trends and challenges", addressed several critical issues in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation, such as challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and initiatives to overcome them; nuclear renaissance and nuclear non-proliferation; security in East Asia and arms control; and cooperation with civil society. The twenty-first United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues took place in Niigata, Japan, from 26 to 28 August 2009. The conference addressed topics ranging from the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the outlook for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the role of the media and civil society in disarmament. The gathering urged nations of the world to take major steps towards creating a world without nuclear weapons and to identify ways to translate the vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world into concrete actions.

25. With the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the seventh United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 26 November 2008. The Conference, with the overall theme of "Nuclear renaissance and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: reinforcing the three pillars of the NPT", addressed several critical issues in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, such as revitalizing the Treaty process, nuclear renaissance and a

multilateral assurance mechanism for nuclear fuel supply, challenges and responses to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and non-proliferation challenges in north-east Asia. The eighth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 16 to 18 November 2009. With the overall theme, "Prospects for a new era of progress on disarmament and non-proliferation", the Conference addressed several critical issues in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, such as actions toward a nuclear-weapon-free world; challenges and possible solutions to nuclear non-proliferation; promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and non-proliferation challenges in north-east Asia.

26. The 2008 and 2009 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by Permanent Missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

27. A major gathering was organized by the EastWest Institute and the Office for Disarmament Affairs during which the Secretary-General unveiled his five-point plan for nuclear disarmament on 24 October 2008 (see SG/SM/11881). Other events in 2008 included a workshop on depleted uranium, meetings to discuss the path to abolishing nuclear weapons, discussions on outer space security, promoting transparency in arms transfers through the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as well as cluster munitions and small arms. Also of note, on 23 October 2008, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, organized a panel to present the "Development of a biological incident database".

28. In connection with the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2009, side events included the launch of an Office for Disarmament Affairs booklet on "Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons", which was based on a joint Office for Disarmament Affairs-European Union project. Other events included a movie screening of "The Silent Army" followed by a panel discussion on child soldiers and small arms organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

29. Youth has been a focus of outreach activities by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. On 9 June 2009, an event was held at United Nations Headquarters entitled "Disarm the World with Knowledge", organized by the Co-Chair of the DPI/NGO Youth Committee. In addition to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, other co-sponsors of the event included the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information and the United Nations University. Young professionals, students and faculty from 14 academic institutions attended, and numerous other students from around the world were able to participate via live webcast.

30. A similar seminar was held on 23 June 2009 for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City with the Department of Public Information/NGO Youth Subcommittee. More than 100 students from various universities in Mexico City participated, as did officials from the Foreign Ministry of Mexico. Students from different cities of Mexico and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were also able to take part through a webcast of the seminar. A video link was also created with the United Nations

Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is based in Lima. On 2 June 2010, a similar event was held in Mexico City with live video participation from the staff of the Regional Centre.

B. Briefings

31. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, or requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York undertook between 35 and 40 briefing engagements per year over the reporting period dedicated to education and training activities for the benefit of some 2,250 external participants from: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Associations members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs. The number of participants represents a considerable increase of 50 per cent compared to the last reporting period.

32. Staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

33. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and staff from the Office have participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. Attention has also been given to new media such as internet broadcasting and video messages both for specific meetings and for the Office for Disarmament Affairs website.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

34. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the substantive office (in this case the Office for Disarmament Affairs) for activities relating to disarmament issues. During the period under review, Michael Douglas made a number of contributions. In 2009, he joined the Secretary-General in promoting the "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign and in posting 100 reasons to disarm nuclear weapons on the microblogging site, Twitter. In addition, he was a panellist at the "Voices of Experience" event, held in New York on 7 May 2009, conducted on the fringe of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference. He also made a presentation at the meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 2009, to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

35. Mr. Douglas and the Secretary-General appeared together on 4 May 2010 and spoke at a ceremony launching the *Stop Nuclear Arms!* exhibition organized by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. On 5 May, Mr. Douglas and the Secretary-General also appeared together to open a screening of *Countdown to Zero*, a documentary about the escalating threat of global nuclear arms. Before the screening, which was a side event of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, Mr. Douglas made

remarks focusing on the media's role in reporting the dangers nuclear arms posed to the world.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

36. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field, and IANSA in connection with small arms and light weapons. A total of 1,155 representatives from 118 NGOs participated in the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (May 2010). In the area of small arms, 170 representatives from about 35 NGOs participated in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (June 2010). A new system of online advance registration for NGOs for these types of meetings is being tested and will hopefully ease the burden on the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the NGOs, United Nations Security and the Pass Office alike.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

37. The Department of Public Information continues to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control and related fields, including by promoting the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Public information campaigns

38. In 2009, the Department of Public Information, in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, launched a multi-platform campaign on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, using digital media platforms and traditional outreach methods. This was the first integrated digital campaign launched by the Department that used both traditional and new media to promote a strategic communications priority. It was launched in June with the slogan "WMD-We Must Disarm", and it culminated with the International Day of Peace on 21 September, during the same week in which a Security Council summit meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation was held, along with the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, at United Nations Headquarters.

39. The campaign engaged citizens from around the world on the issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by asking them to submit their own "reasons to disarm" via the International Day of Peace website available in the six official United Nations languages. Results were shown to world leaders at the opening of the General Assembly in New York from 23 to 25 September. The campaign created dedicated pages on social networking and microblogging sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, to engage and build online communities dedicated to nuclear

disarmament and non-proliferation. Thousands from around the world joined the campaign platforms and signed the Secretary-General's online Declaration to support the cause. Each day, the campaign sent out a "reason to disarm" via Twitter, which was redistributed by those participating in the campaign, including the American actor Rainn Wilson to his over 1.3 million followers on Twitter, and also by the Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas. The first 10 messages via Twitter were sent out by the Secretary-General, who also launched the campaign in Latin America at the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City. The campaign also included the launch of an online video competition via YouTube.

40. Twitter enabled the "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign to reach some 1.2 million people, and provided them with access to a variety of material on disarmament and non-proliferation, in the form of video, photos and text. The campaign Facebook site attracted 7,700 members. All digital platforms were interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

41. The annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, which took place in Mexico City from 9 to 11 September 2009, was also devoted to disarmament. The Office for Disarmament Affairs played an important substantive part in the preparations and conduct of the Conference.

42. The Department of Public Information promoted the Secretary-General's proposals on disarmament and non-proliferation through an op-ed piece entitled "My Plan to Drop the Bomb", which was placed in at least 53 national newspapers and electronic media globally, and through other products and activities by United Nations information centres, non-governmental organizations and other partners (see relevant sections below).

43. Throughout the reporting period, the Department provided communications support to the United Nations meetings and conferences on disarmament-related matters. Most recently, the Department worked closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs on targeted promotional efforts with regard to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, May 2010). The Department used various information and communications tools such as press releases, promotional materials including a press kit, featured radio and television stories and a dedicated website in six official languages, as well as outreach activities, to call attention to the importance of the Review Conference and to the critical issues placed on its agenda. Prior to the Conference, an op-ed of the Secretary-General entitled "Standing at Ground Zero" was prepared and published in the *International Herald Tribune*. Overall, the op-ed was placed in 23 media outlets in 19 countries. In addition, an op-ed related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, entitled "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Talks Symbolize Hope" written by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, was published in *The Huffington Post* (United States of America). The Department also participated in the publicity activities for a side event featuring a special screening of a documentary *Countdown to Zero* on 5 May 2010. The Secretary-General, United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, Academy Award-winning producer Lawrence Bender, and Participant Media's Jeff Skoll provided introductory remarks.

B. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

44. The Department has continued to raise global awareness of disarmament issues through its regular coverage of meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and by producing a wide range of news and feature programming on the Organization's activities across the full range of its news network.

45. Major events covered during the reporting period included: the Third and Fourth Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the 2008-2009 sessions of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; the activities of the General Assembly and its First Committee; the 2009 Security Council summit meeting on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation; the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference; as well as major advocacy and outreach campaigns.

46. In print, the Department issued a total of 339 press releases in English and French, providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of intergovernmental meetings (228); statements, messages and appointments of the Secretary-General (91); and press conferences (20).

47. On the Internet, the United Nations News Centre produced regular news stories and features in all official languages, spotlighting significant disarmament news and campaigns throughout the reporting period, including coverage of events such as the biennial meetings on small arms, actions and decisions of the Security Council, statements of the Secretary-General and developments at the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City.

48. The Department's Web Services Section created and maintained, in the six official languages, the website of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. It also provided scanning and Internet-posting for Conference statements and NGO presentations. The Department of Public Information also created the website for the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in English, with versions in the other five languages pending. The Department also supported a host of additional disarmament-related Internet initiatives with United Nations partners.

49. United Nations Radio's programming in the six official languages as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese, focused on many dimensions of the United Nations messages on disarmament, including those relating to conventional weapons, small arms, the impact of landmines in post-conflict areas, the work of civil society to promote disarmament, the role of parliamentarians in disarmament and programming on the Secretary-General's visit in April 2010 to the former Soviet nuclear weapons test site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan. In addition, United Nations Radio featured world figures and celebrity advocates for disarmament, including Mikhail Gorbachev, who lectured at the United Nations on nuclear disarmament; actor Michael Douglas, who is a United Nations Messenger of Peace with a disarmament portfolio; and model Christie Brinkley, who participated in a panel discussion on disarmament in her capacity as a board member of the United States-based Global Security Institute. Throughout the reporting period, United Nations Radio aired disarmament-related interviews with United Nations officials as well as government representatives.

50. In addition to regular coverage of Headquarters-based events, from press conferences to meetings of the Security Council, United Nations Photo produced a special Internet photo gallery on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation during the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

51. The Department's Television Section continued to produce news stories, feature programming and packages for broadcasters on disarmament. For example, the television magazine programme "21st Century" and the short feature programme "UN in Action" spotlighted disarmament work ranging from demining dogs in southern Sudan to a close-up look at the arms trade to a historical overview of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A wealth of material was produced to support awareness of the developments at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, including footage from across the United Nations system, as well as daily highlights cut from breaking news coverage at Headquarters featuring press stake-outs and press conferences.

52. Raw footage packages for broadcasters were prepared on a range of disarmament subjects, from the Secretary-General speaking to an extraordinary session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008 to creative disarmament programmes in Haiti and Rwanda.

53. In addition, throughout the reporting period, video clips were posted on the Internet for live and on-demand viewing on disarmament-related matters. During the reporting period, 362 video clips and 70 hours of live webcast coverage were posted for public access on news and developments, including activities of the Security Council and special events such as the joint Office for Disarmament Affairs and Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs presentation, and panel discussions organized by civil society partners in conjunction with the work of the Organization.

C. United Nations information centres, services and offices

54. The Department of Public Information network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out various public information activities in the field of disarmament through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on nuclear disarmament, small arms and cluster munitions; through educational outreach efforts, including model United Nations programmes, special events and videoconferences; through the production and dissemination of information materials in local languages; and through outreach to the general public, including seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions.

55. As mentioned above (see para. 42), the Secretary-General's op-ed piece entitled "My Plan to Drop the Bomb" was placed in at least 53 national newspapers and electronic media, including *The South China Morning Post* in China, *The Daily News* in Egypt, *The Deccan Herald* in India, eight news outlets in the Islamic Republic of Iran, *The Japan Times* in Japan, *The Daily Star* in Lebanon, *The Frontier Post* in Pakistan, *The Daily News* in Sri Lanka, *Referans* and *Today's Zaman* in Turkey, *The St. Petersburg Times* and *The Moscow Times* in the Russian Federation, *The Nation* in Thailand, *The International Courier* in Ukraine, *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman* in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and *The Washington Times* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in the United States of America. The op-ed by the Under-Secretary-General for

Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on cluster ammunitions was placed in a number of national newspapers, including *Eleftherotypia* in Greece and *Excelsior* in Mexico, and widely disseminated through the websites, press releases and newsletters of the information centres.

56. The Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City in September 2009 entitled "For peace and development: disarm now!" presented a good opportunity to disseminate United Nations messages on disarmament among the NGO community in Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City organized a small arms exhibit and an exhibit on child soldiers at the Conference site. A number of information centres both in and outside of the region supported the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference and some of them organized seminars and workshops with their national NGOs to disseminate information on the work of the United Nations on disarmament in conjunction with the Conference. Model United Nations programmes supported by the information centres in various countries, including Colombia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and South Africa, took up disarmament as one of the main subject areas for debate in 2009. The theme of the Model United Nations in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2009 was nuclear disarmament. The United Nations Information Service in Vienna regularly organized lecture programmes on IAEA and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for visiting teachers from Germany, for students from Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and other countries, as well as for young diplomats, politicians and military officers from the region throughout the reporting period.

57. Other special events organized by the information centres included the exhibition of the Origami Collection in the Armenian-Japanese "Peace Lantern" project in Yerevan in November 2008 and a commemorative event on the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Vienna in August 2009. The Information Centre in Tokyo provided support to the annual United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues organized jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of Japan, in Saitama City in August 2008. The Information Centre in Kathmandu organized a press conference during the conference on illicit small arms issues organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu in June 2009. The Information Centre in Tehran translated excerpts of the Secretary-General's message on Remembrance Day for All Victims of Chemical Warfare into Persian and issued a press release on it in August 2009. The Information Centre in Ouagadougou, in cooperation with the Government of Burkina Faso, organized an annual media seminar on the illicit small arms trade in July 2008 and 2009. It also produced a 45-minute television programme on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation with the national broadcaster in September 2009. The Information Centre in Bujumbura, working with the national broadcaster, produced a number of programmes relating to small arms, nuclear security and other disarmament issues throughout the reporting period.

D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

58. Disarmament and related issues were predominant topics at the sixty-second annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, on the theme "For

peace and development: disarm now!", hosted by the Government of Mexico in September 2009. Some 1,300 participants, representing 55 countries and 340 non-governmental organizations, exchanged ideas, experiences and lessons on peace, disarmament and development. The Conference underscored the interrelationships between issues such as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and conventional arms regulation, as well as human development and global security.

59. The Secretary-General's attendance at the Conference gave great prominence to the event, while demonstrating to the non-governmental community that their aspirations were shared by the United Nations leadership.

60. The Conference resulted in a Declaration entitled "Disarming for Peace and Development", which was presented to the Secretary-General and to the incumbent and former Presidents of the General Assembly and to the Security Council. For the first time in the history of the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, the Declaration was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2009/477, annex) in the context of its summit-level meeting on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation held in September 2009.

61. During the reporting period, the Department continued its regular briefing programme for the representatives of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information. Briefings and workshops were held on: "Disarming for Peace and Development: The Need to Move Forward"; "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!"; "Disarmament: Fresh Answers to Old Questions"; and "Disarmament Issues and the UN".

62. The Department has continued to engage young people worldwide on disarmament and related issues. In September 2009, more than 1,000 students and teachers participated in the observance of the International Day of Peace held at Headquarters on the theme "Disarm now for a better world". More than 60 schools and non-governmental organizations from the United States attended, and many more worldwide followed the proceedings via a live webcast, addressing issues such as the illicit trade in small arms and nuclear disarmament. Students from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and the Sudan participated by videoconference, assisted by the United Nations peacekeeping missions in those countries. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs addressed the event, in which the United Nations Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall also participated.

E. Printed materials

63. The issues of disarmament and arms control have continued to be covered extensively in publications of the Department of Public Information such as *The Yearbook of the United Nations* and *The United Nations Today* (formerly *Basic Facts about the United Nations*). In August 2009, the Department published a double edition of the *UN Chronicle* magazine featuring a series of articles on disarmament-related topics written by a variety of experts. The edition coincided with the 2009 Department of Public Information/NGO Conference.

F. Exhibitions

64. Public exhibitions play an important rôle in promoting advocacy and providing information on United Nations priority issues, reaching a large number of visitors to United Nations Headquarters. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information organized a number of exhibitions related to disarmament in the public areas of the United Nations complex, including "Against Nuclear Arms", jointly sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Kazakhstan, and the "IMPACT! Living with Mines and Cluster Munitions" exhibit.

65. Most recently, in May-June 2010, the Department and the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized a major joint exhibition entitled "Stop Nuclear Arms!" in conjunction with the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. The exhibition consisted of two parts: "Putting an End to Nuclear Explosions", a multimedia display developed by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and "A Message to the World from Hiroshima and Nagasaki", sponsored by the Government of Japan, with the support of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization (Nihon Hidankyo) from the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

66. In addition, the permanent disarmament exhibition on the United Nations guided tour route in the General Assembly building continued to attract visitors. The Secretary-General's "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign was incorporated in the exhibition gallery in 2009, and visitors were encouraged to participate by signing statements on "Why we must disarm" on a huge paper scroll in the gallery as well as sending text messages to the weapons of mass destruction site. A new exhibit showing child victims of anti-personnel landmines has been added.

G. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace

67. The Department has continued to coordinate the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace programme promoting United Nations-related issues through the special efforts of celebrity advocates. During the reporting period, Messengers of Peace Michael Douglas and Jane Goodall made a number of contributions on disarmament-related issues.

68. Ms. Goodall participated in the observance of the 2009 International Day of Peace at United Nations Headquarters, attending the traditional Peace Bell ceremony and taking part in the student observance on disarmament. She also took part in a panel discussion during the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, entitled "Sustainable security for the 21st century", which focused on linkages between disarmament and development and was co-sponsored by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Global Security Institute.

H. Public affairs

69. During the reporting period, 479,243 visitors took the guided tours of Headquarters, which has a disarmament component on the tour route. The tours were offered in Arabic, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. More than 5,000

visitors took the audio tours, which were introduced on 6 October 2009. The Department organized 47 in-house briefings on disarmament and related issues which were attended by a total of 1,347 participants.

VI. Conclusions

70. **During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.**

71. **Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications to electronic formats. The two-part *Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and "Disarmament Update" are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.**

72. **The website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information. With the assistance of the Department of Public Information, the Office for Disarmament Affairs will continue to improve the website with a whole new design to provide current and accurate information in a dynamic and easily retrievable format.**

73. **The Department of Public Information has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.**

74. **The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Governments for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work. It would like to express appreciation in particular to the Governments and private donors for their financial contributions to the Trust Fund.**

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2009

		(United States dollars)
I.	Fund balance as at 1 January 2008	328 216
II.	Income, 1 January 2008-31 December 2009	
	Voluntary contributions	174 000
	Interest income	23 079
	Miscellaneous income	5 458
	Subtotal	**202 537**
III.	Expenditure	
	1 January 2008-31 December 2009	168 002
	Programme support costs (United Nations)	21 840
	Subtotal	**189 842**
	Adjustments	2
IV.	Fund balance as at 31 December 2009	340 913

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2008-2009 ending 31 December 2009. During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, additional contributions totalling $52,000 were received from Thailand ($1,000), Panama ($1,000) and a private donor ($50,000). In 2008, the following contributions were received: a private donor ($100,000), Thailand ($1,000), Mexico ($10,000), Panama ($1,000) and the Republic of Korea ($10,000).